

stations (without saying what is to be done with the sewage when it is there), and then, in speaking of the two plans brought forward by the officers of the late Metropolitan Commission, coolly dismisses that by Mr. Austin, in a few lines, saying that, "as far as yet explained, it appears to consist in the formation of district receptacles, called 'sumpts,' for the sewage."

The essay itself, however, contains a considerable amount of information, and will be found of service by all engaged in drainage operations, not excepting those who ambition the gross provision in this respect for the whole metropolis.*

Messrs. Dwyer and Laugher, whose names will be remembered by our readers in connection with the Decorative Art Society, are publishing a series of "Free Hand Studies," intended chiefly for the use of Schools of Design, by supplying examples for the best practice of pupils. Three are before us. The first is an illustration of a means of producing a certain class of effects by lines of similar flexure, and may be considered as the "pothooks" in the art. The "Cyclanthus" offers an instance of contrary flexures, to the right hand and to the left hand, or "pothooks and hangers;" and the "Robinia" presents curves of extensive variety and direction. These studies should be practised in a free, quick manner, in larger and smaller scales, with chalk, on a black board, until a facility of approximating the examples be acquired. This system is found less impeding and irksome to the progress of a pupil than the general system of insinuating upon time-taking but imperfect attempts at an exact imitation only, although the necessity of acquiring the power of exact representation must not be lost sight of. In the sister art, music, a course of practice involving failures and repetitions innumerable is alone conducive to skilful manipulation; and in drawing-schools both masters and pupils would find advantages from adopting black boards, which admit of such repetition in an easy and inexpensive manner. These "Free-hand Studies" are designed with especial reference to such a valuable, but too much neglected course of study, and they have been accordingly published at a very low price.

Speaking of decoration, we will take this opportunity to mention a work recently published, containing representations of ornaments in all styles, executed in *papier mâché* and *carton pierre*, by Messrs. Jackson, of Ruthbone-place, the majority of which are excellent in character. We have before now spoken of the facilities for rapid artistic ornamentation which Messrs. Jackson's establishment affords, and the publication of this book renders application to it more easy.

With the intention of treating the arts of decorative design practically, Mr. R. Robson has commenced a work under the title of "Decorative Art, exhibiting the Development of its Natural and Geometrical Elements," &c.†

* Sometimes since we gave a list of the parties who had submitted plans in competition to the Sewers Commission for draining London, up to a certain date. The following is a continuation of the list:—J. Adams, H. Bird, J. Brown, Sir S. Brown, J. H. Chre, R. G. Coke, J. Cundy, H. C. Daubeny, J. Dean, J. B. Denton, F. Drayson, Dredge and Stephenson, M. Dano, C. F. Eriksen, "Flat Justice," C. Fowler, W. Y. Freebody, A. Giller, Greville and Barlow, P. Hawkes, T. Hay, C. Henman, "J. B.," "J. V.," J. F. McCabe, J. B. McLean, W. Newby, S. Milne, Capt. W. S. Moore, Nasmith and Strataam, L. P. Page, H. Phillips, H. Pinkish, R. and W. Pontifex, W. Radley, Baron Von Rathen, J. B. Redman, G. Remington, Freeman Roe and Hanson, M. L. Salter, N. Scott, H. K. Scott, G. Shepherd, B. G. Sloper, J. Smith, W. Smith, B. Stratton, Sir T. Taubert, T. C. Taylor, J. Tebay, C. H. White, Walter Smith, J. Wilkin, and S. Wise.

Wells; Birmingham, Bealby; Newcastle,

The first *fasciculus* contains sixteen plates, besides letter-press, comprising examples of enriched mouldings, leaves from nature as the elements of enrichments in various styles, diagrams illustrating the geometry of the Greeks, as applied to the formation of mouldings, &c. It promises to be useful.

And what is this pretty white-bound volume, suggesting kid-gloves and orange blossoms, which peeps out amidst pamphlets on *drainage* and essays on *style*?—"Holy Matrimony," illuminated by Owen Jones.*

And how has Mr. Jones done it,—how has he set forth and embellished with cunning pen that solemn and tight-tying service, which begins with "dearly beloved," and ends with "amusement,"—a type, may we venture to say, of the change which occasionally takes place in the condition of mind of those on whom its gentle powers have been exercised. He has done it as it should be done, enticingly, and in colour of rose. A genial glow, soft and blushing, is spread over each tiny leaf; flowers enwreath every passage; the promise of feminine obedience brings "heart's-ease," and manly protection is promised amidst myrtle and passion flowers. For this pleasant and pretty disguise,—this gilding of gold and painting of the lily,—much is owed, O Jones, to thee, and many are the soft slippers, fringed urn-rugs, and ottomans worked in Berlin wool (sweet devices to enable the idle to fancy themselves industrious), which will come to thee in grateful acknowledgment from the female world! A damsel, willing to throw her graceful self away, may present this pretty book to the blind or thoughtless favoured one, with the full assurance that it will suggest to his mind, none other than charming ideas of the flowery path she would have him tread, and the beauty and value of the budding hopes which require but his will and word to ripen into full fruition.

Had it come to us from such hands, it is impossible to say what would have been the consequence!

"MODEL" TOWN HOUSES FOR THE MIDDLE CLASSES.

OBSERVATIONS ON ORDINARY LONDON DWELLING-HOUSES, WITH AN ATTEMPT TO SUGGEST AN IMPROVEMENT ON THEIR USUAL PLAN.†

Of the many subjects that in the present day agitate the public mind, few are more engrossing than that of the sanitary arrangement and construction of dwelling-houses. In London especially, visited as it has lately been by that fearful scourge, the cholera, whose direct ravages the neglect of this important question is said to invite and foster, the question of sanitary reform may be said to be just now uppermost in the public mind. It is now that the philanthropist comes forward with a definite plan for the construction of "model towns," and companies or associations spring up on every side of the metropolis, formed for the object of erecting "model" lodging-houses, or dwellings for the labouring classes. The very titles given to such projects as these, are, one would think, indicative of the startling fact that our ordinary dwellings are not merely unsatisfactorily constructed, but actually arranged upon a false plan.

Looking at the metropolis alone, it will be found that the evils of the present method of arranging town dwellings are by no means limited to what is usually meant by sanitary reform, or the mere preservation of its inhabitants in *corpore sano*, but that the *mens sano*, the healthy mind, the mental comfort and culture, and the moral deportment of the Londoners, are greatly affected by these evils. If we reflect a little on what are termed "our hearths and homes," we shall find that, for

the most part, the dwelling-houses of London, as now inhabited, realize very little if anything of an Englishman's ideas of a hearth or home; and that, in the metropolis at least, the vaunted relation of the Englishman's fire-side to a castle, is a meaningless nonentity indeed. The observation is not only applicable to the dwellings of the labouring class,—its truth may be urged with equal force as it regards that other important section of our population, the middle class of society, on whose well-being the dignity of the nation may be said mainly to depend.

To allude more explicitly to the principal defect in our present method of arranging houses in the metropolis, I cannot do better than refer to a paper* read at the Architectural Association last May by one of the members, Mr. F. Chambers. It was entitled "The Architectural Advantages and Deficiencies of London," and takes, what it is surprising so few architects have taken, a glance at the causes of that signal want of architectural effect common to almost all our long drawn, densely peopled thoroughfares. It would be well worth while to consider whether it be not practicable to devise some plan of erecting town-dwelling-houses at at least their present usual cost (when substantially built), and the present usual superficial area assigned to them, which shall be free from the objections very justly urged against their ordinary system of construction.

The paper in question contains the surprising statement, that "only one-fourth of the dwelling-houses in the metropolis are occupied by one family each;" the remainder, though constructed to be similarly tenanted, are ("common" or uncommon, as the case may be), mere lodging-houses—namely *private dwellings*, which they are not,—ill-arranged, uncomfortable lodgings, which they were never built to be. A married Londoner with a family, should his means exclude him from the happy number who make up the 25 per cent. of separate householders, has no power to exempt himself from the remaining 75 per cent. of lodgers or lodging-house keepers; he must either take his station among the former, and with them confine himself to some limited few of the rooms in the house, in daily fear lest the bailiff should sweep off his (so-called) household furniture for arrears of rent, or debts of any kind contracted by his landlord, for whose pecuniary stability he is ever responsible; or he must, if a person to whom a residence in a tolerably fashionable neighbourhood is indispensable, rent a house twice or thrice as large as he absolutely requires for his family, and pass his life in it, alternately grumbling over the heavy rent and taxes his empty apartments entail on him, or bewailing the galling absence of all dignity or privacy, the due regularity and control of his household, to which their hired occupancy by strangers must more or less subject him. Who can fail to imagine the moral evils attendant on either of these alternatives? How can such a state of things be reconciled to the master's love of home, the mistress's pride in its neatness and cleanliness, the often prized, and never too highly appreciated home-education of children, and though last not least, the due control and exemplary training of servants. Is the master of the house a man of quiet, studious habits?—his "first floor," as the phrase goes, is a good musician; or a married couple, fond of inviting their friends to an occasional dance. Is he solicitous for the health of his family?—his injunctions to have doors opened and sashes let down are either restricted to certain rooms in his house, or positively interdicted by his lodger, who has a horror of "draughts." Is he a religious man?—his efforts to rightly educate his children are rendered nugatory by their inevitable intercourse with the family of his sceptical neighbour up stairs. In fine, is the master or mistress precise and cleanly?—the couple who lodge above are dirty and slovenly, and hate "particular people." Has the one family a refractory servant?—the other has a rebellious "marchioness" who abets her; and, with all these and very many more disagreeables than we have time to discuss, the united, but not "happy" families, have to put up with each other as they best can. Thwarted in all her efforts to preserve a neat

* Published by Longman and Co. 1849.

† Read at a meeting of the Architectural Association, October 19, 1849.

* See THE BUILDER, vol. vii., page 230.